Tab 8

Committee on Transfer & Articulation Annual Report

Coordinating Board for Higher Education
June 10, 2026

BACKGROUND

Sections 173.005.2(6) and 173.020(3), RSMo, authorize the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) to ensure efficient and effective transfer of students among Missouri institutions. The Committee on Transfer and Articulation (COTA), CBHE's standing advisory committee, works within the board's statutory authority to facilitate the transfer of students between institutions of higher education within the state. 6 CSR 10-3.020(7)(A)2.I. requires an annual report on COTA's activities, including meetings, actions, and recommendations.

CURRENT STATUS

Report of Committee Meetings:
COTA held nine virtual and three face-to-face meetings in the 2025-2026 Academic Year. A list of current COTA members is available in Attachment A.

Report of Committee Actions:

- COTA hosted an in-person conference on March 6, 2026, with the theme "Pathways Powered by Possibility: Innovation for Student Mobility." The conference, held at Hilton Garden Inn-Columbia, hosted approximately 120 attendees across Missouri, Illinois, and Kansas. Twelve speakers presented topics related to best practices, partnering with AI to empower enrollment and student success, building inter-collegiate relationships, and streamlining adult learner pathways. The Conference Summary Report can be found in Attachment B.
- A vacancy was created in the Proprietary representation that we were unable to fill due to a lack of qualified applicants. New leadership was voted in. Continuity on the committee is strong; turnover has decreased, and current members are dedicated to the charge. Term rotation has been refined to ensure stability of the committee.

Report of Committee Recommendations:
COTA was not asked to make recommendations to institutions regarding transfer and articulation policy this year.

NEXT STEPS

COTA will be working to fill the vacant Proprietary representative position as well as two new vacancies created by the retirement of two two-year sector members. The process for filling the vacancies is as follows:

- June 1, 2026: Deadline for candidate submission
- June 10, 2026: COTA review of candidates
- June 26: Submission of nominations to MDHEWD
- July 1: Notification of appointment to new members

RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item only.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A: 2025-2026 COTA Membership Roster
- Attachment B: 2026 COTA Conference Summary Report

COTA CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The Committee on Transfer and Articulation (COTA) is charged by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education to review and make recommendations on transfer issues; study and develop transfer guidelines for traditional and non-traditional credits; solicit suggestions and data from administrators, faculty, and students concerning transfer; and monitor institutions to determine whether they are informing transfer students of their rights and responsibilities.

The COTA Conference has been held annually since 2007. The intent of the conference is to provide attendees with additional data about best transfer practices, persistent transfer problems, and useful resources. The conference also provides an excellent opportunity to network with colleagues from across the state on transfer/articulation issues and challenges of mutual concern.

COTA Committee Report 2026

The Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development hosted the annual COTA Conference on Friday, March 6, 2026, at Hilton Garden Inn in Columbia.

Pathways to Possibilities: Innovation for Student Mobility

Conference Sessions

Welcome Session - ***Dr. Bennett Boggs*** - Commissioner, ***Helen Hale*** - COTA Chair

Keynote Address: Reframing the Pathway - ***Paul Farnsworth*** - Executive Director of Communication and Content at B&B Theatres

Q & A - ***Paul Farnsworth*** - Executive Director of Communication and Content at B&B Theatres

Mapping the Adult Learner Journey: Streamlined Pathways from Recruitment to Graduation - ***Brooke Lockhart & David Smith*** - Southeast Missouri State University

CORE 42 Roundtable - ***CCAC and COTA Representatives***

Creating Pathways: Lessons from Relaunching an On-Campus Transfer Orientation - ***Campbell Keele*** - Missouri State University

Building an AI-Powered Transfer Ecosystem - ***Matthew Frank*** - Lindenwood University

Dual Credit Pathways - ***Twyla Evans*** - Neosho High School

Fearless Together: Removing Transfer Barriers and Building Pathways - ***Amber Sumner and Lindsay Smoot*** - Southeast Missouri State University

Policy as Discourse: A Critical Analysis of Illinois Transfer Policies and First-Generation Students - ***Juan José Reyes*** - University of Missouri–Columbia

Closing Remarks: Missouri Transfer Pathways Updates - ***Samantha Dickey*** - MDHEWD

COTA CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

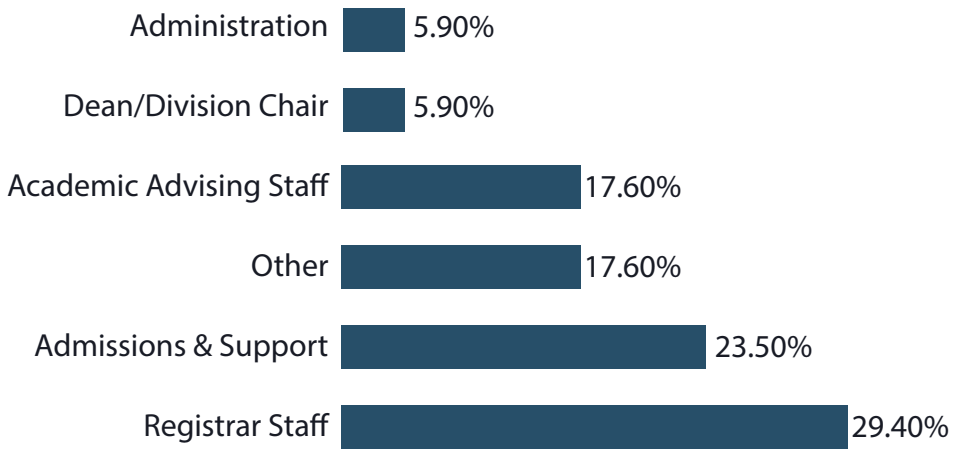
The COTA Conference is a one-day, in-person learning opportunity to address the changing issues presented in higher education with respect to student transfer, credit vs. non-credit, articulation agreements, and fostering institutional policy to vigorously support transfer student degree attainment. The aim of the conference is to aid participants and their institutions to navigate new territory, identify institutional infrastructure impediments, and offer insight into inclusionary practices for transfer students, with a particular focus on adult learners. The conference is designed with a goal of guiding institutions to think broadly and generously so that students do not have credits that are stranded. Participants will learn practical and research-based strategies, build connections, and gain more insights into the state of transfer in Missouri. Individuals from all functional areas at community colleges, universities, and other organizations are encouraged to attend.

Our in-person format offers opportunities for learning across the state, engaging scholars at the forefront of their fields, and boldly considering new ways to remove barriers that learners face in higher education. Our conference offers synchronous participation in workshops, featured speaker sessions, and trend topics, in addition to an Ask the Expert Q & A session with our keynote speaker.

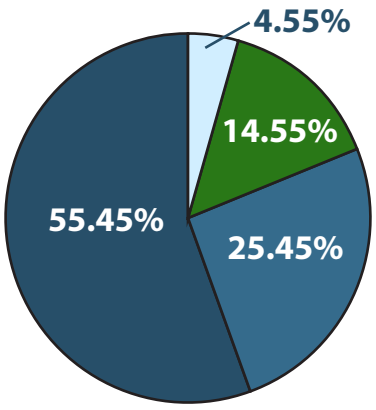
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

CONFERENCE DEMOGRAPHICS

INSTITUTIONAL ROLE

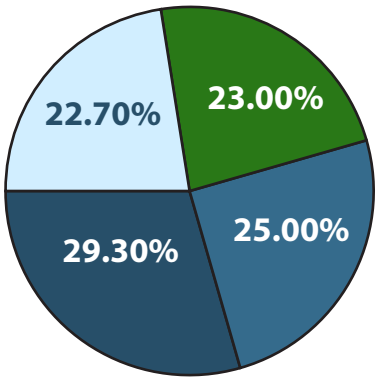


ATTENDANCE BY INSTITUTION TYPE



- Public 4-year
- Public 2-year
- Private 4-year
- Other

PREVIOUS YEARS OF ATTENDANCE



- 1-2 Conferences
- 3-5 Conferences
- More than 5 Conferences
- Never Attended

OVERALL CONFERENCE EVALUATION

Overall Conference Evaluation Mean response, scale 1 (unsatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied)	Percentage (Very Satisfied)
The presentations and discussions addressed important issues surrounding transfer	89.21%
The conference was helpful for increasing my understanding of transfer practices	91.03%
I am interested in participating in future conferences	100.00%
Overall, how would you rate this event?	75.00%